

Inventor: SADLER et al.

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movement of said plurality of surgical clips, said ledge shaped stop means providing end stop means to effect closure of said clip when said outer member is moved relative to said inner member.

10. (Amended) The magazine storage system for an applicator for surgical clips as claimed in claim 9 in which a ratchet stop means is provided in said inner tube, said ratchet stop means being positioned between said spring means and said plurality of surgical clips, said ratchet stop means being moveable by said spring means in a direction from said proximal to said distal end of said elongate tube, said ratchet stop means being co-operative with a corresponding ratchet means on said inner member to be prevented from movement in the opposite direction.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of this preliminary amendment. By the present Amendment, claims 1-10 have been amended. The Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added by this Amendment.

The claims have been amended to conform to U.S. practice. These amendments are not considered to narrow the scope of the claims and are not being made for reasons relating to patentability.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims pending in the above-identified application, namely claims 1-10 are in condition for allowance and a notice to that affect is earnestly solicited.

If the case is found by the Examiner not to be in condition for allowance, then Applicants hereby request a telephone or personal interview to facilitate the resolution of any remaining matters. Applicants' attorney may be contact by telephone at the number indicated below to schedule such an interview.

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The Patent and Trademark Office is authorized to charge any additional fees incurred as a result of the filing hereof or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 19-0120.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 2-13-02

Version with marking to show changes made:

1. (Once Amended) An applicator for surgical clips having upper and lower jaw members with co-operating locking means when in a closed position, said applicator comprising elongate tube means [(14)], said elongate tube means including means for attachment to an operating handle [(12)], said elongate tube means comprising an inner member and an outer member, said inner and outer members [(141, 143)] being slidable relative to each other, said inner member and said outer member being shaped to retain at least one surgical clip [(140)], said handle being operative to slide said inner member relative to said outer member, said inner and outer members having co-operating surfaces [(1406, 1402)] to cause said surgical clip to be forced from an open to a closed position on operation of said handle to slide said inner and outer members relative to each other said sliding motion creating a compressed force, orthogonal to said direction of sliding, between said outer member and said inner member [(1406, 1402)] sufficient to compress said upper jaw member and to cause said upper jaw member to lock into engagement with said lower jaw member.
2. (Once Amended) [An] The applicator for surgical clips as claimed in Claim 1 in which said outer member comprises an elongate tube shaped at an end [(1400)] distal from said handle to retain said surgical clip.
3. (Once Amended) [An] The applicator for surgical clips as claimed in Claim 2 in which said shape of said distal end of said outer member comprises an angled sloping platform [(1402)] on which said surgical clip rests, said sloping platform also comprising a raised flange forming stop means for said surgical clips.
4. (Once Amended) [An] The applicator for surgical clips as claimed in Claim[s] 1 [to 3] in which said inner member [(143)] comprises an elongate inner member, said elongate inner member comprising means for storing a multiplicity of surgical clips.

5. (Once Amended) [An] The applicator for surgical clips as claimed in [any one of] Claim[s] 1 [to 4] in which said application comprises means for inducing said multiplicity of surgical slips down said elongate inner member.

6. (Once Amended) [An] The applicator for surgical clips as claimed in Claim 5 in which said elongate inner member includes stop means operable to provide opposing mechanical forces to oppose the force on a surgical clip by said outer member to create closure of the clip.

7. (Once Amended) A magazine storage system for an applicator for surgical clips having upper and lower jaw member with co-operating locking means when in a closed position, said magazine storage system comprising a plurality of surgical clips [(140)] stored in a single column array within an elongate tube, said elongate tube comprising means [(1410, 1411)] at a proximal end thereof for attachment to a handle [(12)], said elongate tube means comprising an inner member [(143)] and an outer member [(141)], said inner and outer members being slideable relative to each other, said inner and outer members being shaped to retain said plurality of surgical clips and said inner and outer members having at a distal end thereof co-operating surfaces shaped to cause said surgical clip to be forced from an open to a closed position when said inner and outer members are moved relative to each other said sliding motion creating a compressed force, orthogonal to said direction of sliding, between said outer member [(1462)] and said inner member [(1406)] sufficient to compress said upper jaw member and to cause said upper jaw member to lock into engagement with said lower jaw member.

8. (Once Amended) [A] The magazine storage system for an applicator as claimed in claim 7 including spring means positioned within said inner member, said spring means [(142)] being operative to urge said plurality of surgical clips from said proximal to said distal end of said elongate tube.

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9. (Once Amended) [A] The magazine storage system for an applicator as claimed in claim 8 in which said outer member comprises at the distal end a ledge shaped stop means [(1402)] to arrest movement of said plurality of surgical clips, said ledge shaped stop means providing end stop means to effect closure of said clip when said outer member is moved relative to said inner member.

10. (Amended) [A] The magazine storage system for an applicator for surgical clips as claimed in claim 9 in which a ratchet stop means [(144)] is provided in said inner tube [(143)], said ratchet stop means being positioned between said spring means and said plurality of surgical clips, said ratchet stop means being moveable by said spring means in a direction from said proximal to said distal end of said elongate tube, said ratchet stop means being co-operative with a corresponding ratchet means [(146)] on said inner member to be prevented from movement in the opposite direction.